IN THE CLAIMS

1-19. (canceled)

20. (previously presented) A system for validating a pattern for a tufting machine, the system comprising:

a pattern storage unit adapted to store a pattern;

a machine data storage unit adapted to store operational characteristics of a tufting machine; and

a control unit adapted to receive said pattern from said pattern storage unit, receive operational characteristics of said tufting machine from said machine data storage unit, and determine whether said pattern may be implemented on said tufting machine based on said operational characteristics

wherein said control unit is further adapted to determine a number of colors of a portion of said pattern, wherein said portion of said pattern corresponds to at least one needle of said tufting machine, and

wherein said control unit is further adapted to determine whether said number of colors is greater than a predetermined number of colors associated with at least one needle of said tufting machine.

21. (currently amended) The system of ~~claim 19~~ claim 20, wherein said control unit is further adapted to analyze at least one pixel of said portion of said pattern and enumerate at least one color of said at least one pixel.

22. (currently amended) The system of ~~claim 18~~ claim 20, further comprising:

a user interface adapted to receive user input from a user and to provide said user input to said control unit.

23. (previously presented) The system of claim 22, wherein said user input defines characteristics of said pattern.

In re Application of: Atty. Docket No.: MHAWK9   Serial No.. 10/789,945
DABROWA, et al

     24.   (currently amended) The system of ~~claim 18~~ <u>claim 20</u>, further comprising:

          a report data storage unit adapted to store report data, wherein said report data is generated by said control unit.

     25.   (previously presented) The system of claim 24, wherein said control unit is further adapted to provide said report data to a user interface.

     26-39. (canceled)